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(ii) to lay on the table the names of members belonging to the depressed classes who have been nominated to the various local bodies throughout the Presidency?

A.—(i) (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) There was a member from 1st April 1922 to 26th May 1922. The Government have no information as to whether the vacancy has since been filled up.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(ii) The hon. Member is referred to the latest Quarterly Civil List as regards district boards and municipal councils. Information in regard to taluk and union boards is being called for.

Darkhast land for Adi-Dravidas in Punkunam, Wandiwash taluk.

350 *Q.*—Mr. L. C. Guruswami: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Adi-Dravidas living in Punkunam village in Wandiwash taluk applied for darkhast land in Punkunam a year ago;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Revenue Officer of the place subsequently inspected the spot in person, gave verbal orders to the petitioners to cultivate the lands and promised to send the assignment order soon;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the caste-Hindu ryots of the village obstructed the petitioners when they ploughed the lands, assaulted them, beat them severely and destroyed their agricultural implements and attempted to take the lives of some of the petitioners;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the petitioners immediately went to the sub-magistrate at Wandiwash and reported the occurrence to him and requested him to safeguard them; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the sub-magistrate refused to admit the complaint of the petitioners?

A.—The Government have no information but will enquire.

Pay of the district board engineer, Salem.

351 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Kandaswami Kandar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a resolution before the Salem District Board to reduce the pay of the district board engineer;

(*b*) whether, notwithstanding this, they passed a resolution to increase his pay;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some members sent dissenting notes to the Government;

(*d*) whether the dissenting note brought to the notice of the Government the losses (incurred by the district board) and the injustice resulting from the joint action of the district board engineer and the president of the district board; and